GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3254
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2006
SECURITY OF INDIAN OCEAN REGION
Fernandes Shri George

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)the security concerns of India in the Indian Ocean region;

(b)whether there is any strategy to deal with these concerns; and

(c)if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) India's security concerns in Indian Ocean Region (IOR) are primarily related to the following aspects:-

(i)Territorial disputes,

(ii)Trade and goods movement along shipping lanes,

(iii)Sustained presence of Multinational Forces in IOR,

(iv)Asymmetric and Low Intensity Maritime Threats, and

(v)Economic offences from the sea.

(b) & (c): India's geographical position is astride the major shipping routes in the Indian Ocean Region. This necessitates continuous and sustained presence of and surveillance by its maritime assets in its territorial waters, Exclusive Economic Zone and other areas of maritime interest. India is also having regular interactions with the Indian Ocean Region littoral states. Cooperation with our maritime neighbours in the field of sharing information on ship movement, platform signatures, exercises, long standing constructive engagement and coordinated patrols along International Maritime Boundaries etc. in order to maintain good order at sea is also a part of the strategy.